

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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43

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3721

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 2670

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : AFSP, TC

SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONAL FUNDS FOR BICENTENNIAL FUNCTION

FOR NEA/EX CONNOLLY FROM AMBASSADOR

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER IN REPLY TO MINE ABOUT HOLDING BICENTENNIAL FUNCTION HERE.

2. BECAUSE THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO LEAVE IN SUMMER, WE ARE THINKING OF HOLDING RECEPTION FEBRUARY 22. WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE 600 PEOPLE OF WHICH PERHAPS 450-500 MIGHT COME. ONLY PLACE WITH ROOM LARGE ENOUGH TO COPE WITH SUCH NUMBER IS HILTON HOTEL, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS ALSO EXPENSIVE. HOWEVER THIS WILL

BE ONE-TIME AFFAIR FOR US AND I BELIEVE IT IS OCCASION WHEN WE SHOULD GO FIRST-CLASS IF WE POSSIBLY CAN MANAGE IT FINANCIALLY. HILTON MANAGEMENT SAYS THEY CAN GIVE US ROOM, SERVICE, FOOD AND SOME DECORATIONS FOR THIS NUMBER OF GUESTS XPR \$2,500, BUT LIQUOR AND SOFT DRINKS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY US.

WE BELIEVE ANOTHER \$500 WILL COVER IT. CAN YOU LET US HAVE \$3,000? WE ARE WELL SET UP THIS YEAR WITH REPRESENTATION FUNDS FOR NORMAL ENTERTAINING PROGRAM, BUT WE CANNOT DIG INTO THIS FOR BICENTENNIAL FUNCTION WITHOUT SERIOUSLY CURTAILING OUR REPRESENTATIONAL PROGRAM FOR REST OF YEAR, WHICH I BELIEVE WOULD BE MISTAKE.

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